

In the Claims:

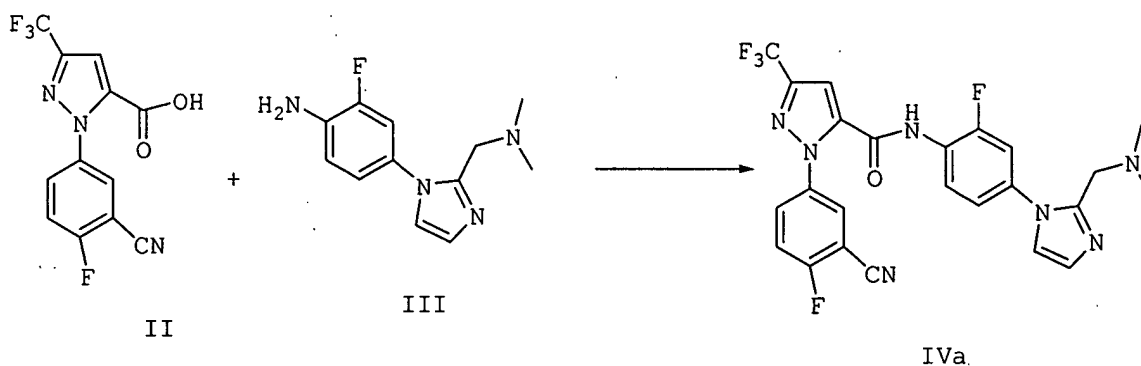
Please cancel Claims 1-16, 23-27 and 30-31 waiver or prejudice.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Original) A process according to Claim 1, wherein the compound of Formula IVa is prepared by the process, comprising:



(b) coupling compounds of Formulas II and III to form a compound of Formula IVa.

Claim 18. (Original) A process according to Claim 17, wherein the compound of Formula IVa is used without purification in (c).

19. (Original) A process according to Claim 17, wherein (b) is performed by contacting a compound of Formula II with an acid activator, in a solvent and a first base, followed by contacting the resulting solution with a compound of Formula III.

